REMARKS

Claims 14 – 18 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 – 13, 19, and 20 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile the subject matter of these canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. The above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification as noted below. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Final Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 14 - 18 are allowed and that the drawings are accepted. Further, the Examiner has objected to claim 1 based upon an informality and rejected claims 1 - 13, 19, and 20 as being non-statutory subject matter and over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Acknowledgment of Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 14 - 18 have been allowed.

Pending Objection and Rejections are Moot

While Applicants do not acquiesce that claims 1-13, 19, and 20 are directed to non-statutory subject matter nor unpatentable over the prior art of record, in an effort to advance prosecution of the instant application, claims 1-13, 19, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants have expressly reserved the right to refile the subject matter of these canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Accordingly, Applicants submit the informal objection to claim 1 and the rejections of claims 1-13, 19, and 20 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter and over the art of

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record are now moot.

Accordingly, as only allowed claims 14 - 18 are currently pending, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above objection and rejections and indicate that the instant application is allowable.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 14 - 18.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen E. FISCHER et al.

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